**AUTUMN 2004** 

# CROSSROADS

## New Hampshire Department of Corrections Victim Services Office

#### "Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime"



**Commissioner Curry** 

## Inside this issue:

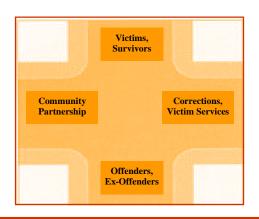
Dialogue: Conversations About Crime	p. 2
Crime Victim Services In Corrections	p. 2
Remembrance Day for Murder Victims	p. 3
Listen & Learn: Why?	p. 4
Dover District Office Women's Group	p. 5
Domestic Violence Awareness Month	p. 6
10 Things To Know About Stalking	p. 7
A Few New Laws For New Hampshire	p. 9
Contact Us	p. 9

#### FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Ed. Note: On July 14, 2004, the NH Governor and Executive Council unanimously approved the nomination of Stephen J. Curry as Commissioner of the NH Department of Corrections. A native of Portland, Maine, Commissioner Curry recently retired from 32 years of service with the United States Army.

As I traveled around New Hampshire in the early months as Commissioner, I learned the NH Department of Corrections includes hundreds of very competent and enthusiastic corrections professionals. I am particularly encouraged to see this at the front line and junior leadership levels of the agency. I have met with law enforcement leaders representing local, county and state agencies, each of whom can assist NHDOC with shaping and coordinating programs to fulfill our mission.

In corrections, we are in the business of custody, control and rehabilitation (change) of offenders. We are respectful of the harm which their crime causes to victims and survivors. It is important for us to learn from the people most



personally impacted by crime. We also recognize the effect an offender's behavior has upon his or her family. Whether in prison or on probation or parole supervision, ex-offenders can learn skills to succeed in our communities. When that happens, we can take pride in a corrections system that positively impacts lives. When corrections is successful, we help decrease the potential for further victimization and increase the likelihood that an offender will not require incarceration in the future.

I look forward to serving New Hampshire as Commissioner of Corrections. My staff and I will aggressively face the challenges of the state budget, recidivism, alternative sentencing and other issues, and will strive toward continued improvement and progress as we set a path to guide the future of NH Department of Corrections.

## This *CROSSROADS*

By Peter Michaud

In August, I was invited to the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of Parents of Murdered Children. Spending a few days with so many amazingly strong survivors of violent crime was both humbling and inspiring. In addition to offering advocacy and support for families of murder victims, a clear message was the importance of better communication with all citizens about the impacts of crime.

This *Crossroads* includes an article about murder and information about the victim-offender dialogue service in New Hampshire. There is a piece about efforts by a probation-parole officer to help women change when they are on probation in the community.

(Continued on page 2)

## **DIALOGUE:**CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CRIME

## By Chaplain Dan Smith

Victim Offender Dialogue is a process by which the person harmed by crime can sit down with the offender of that crime and have a conversation. Its purpose is to afford the victim or survivor an opportunity to meet with the offender of his or her crime and talk about the issues the victim deems important. Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) is victim-initiated and can only happen when both parties agree to meet. It generally is a "one-time" event.

This service for interested crime victims is offered through the Victim Services Office of the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. Several other states have VOD programs, the earliest ones beginning in Minnesota and Texas about twenty years ago. Protocols for Victim-Offender Dialogue in New Hampshire have been established with the intent of making the time of dialogue as helpful as possible for the people involved.

The process begins when a crime victim or survivor contacts NHDOC Victim Services Office and expresses the desire to speak with the

"The reason for their conversation is that the victim or survivor expressed a need to talk with the offender. Most participating offenders also experience the dialogue as personally helpful."

------

offender. Typically, this happens years after the offense. Many different feelings and thoughts may motivate people to seek a dialogue. Often, it is the desire to let the offender know how deeply the crime has impacted the persons harmed. Some people ask for dialogue searching for details and perspective only the offender can provide. Others may want to know how the crime has effected the life of the offender and how the offender now feels about the crime. Each person's motivation and expectations for a dialogue are carefully reviewed.

(Continued on 4)

#### (THIS CROSSROADS from page 1)

The NHDOC hosted a panel presentation by several New Hampshire citizens who are survivors of violent crime. Among other points, you will read about their personal perspective as to why it is important that we all listen and learn as New Hampshire strives to improve its responses to crime..

Peter Michaud is the Victim Services Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. He may be reached at (603) 271-1937 or pemichaud@nhdoc.state.nh.us.

## New Hampshire's Crime Victim Services in Corrections

The NH Department of Corrections' Victim Services Office provides direct services and other activities necessary to ensure quality direct services for crime victims and survivors, including:

- Notification of offender custody changes
- Advocacy and support during reduced custody processes
- Accompaniment at Parole Board hearings
- Reasonable protection from offender intimidation and harassment
- Victim-offender dialogue (upon victim request)
- Restitution advocacy
- > Public awareness and outreach
- > Information and referral
- Victim participation with the IMPACT program
- Evaluation of victim satisfaction with services

During Fiscal Year 2004, 1,276 crime victims and survivors were served through 3560 service contacts by Victim Services staff. Persons served included 67 % females and 33 % males. Victims with offenders in the following crime categories were served:

Sexual Assault 39 %
Other Violent 35 %
Domestic Violence 4 %
Non-Violent 22 %

## New Hampshire Phoenix Chapter Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.



# SEPTEMBER 25TH NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

The 6th Annual National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims was observed on Saturday, September 25, 2004. Sponsored by the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC), this special observance seeks to pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of people in America who have been murdered; to publicly recognize the tremendous losses endured by their families and friends; and to educate our community about the rights and services available to surviving family members of homicide victims.

POMC was founded in 1978 by Robert and Charlotte Hullinger in Cincinnati, Ohio after the murder of their 19-year-old daughter Lisa by a former boyfriend. From a one-room basement office, POMC has grown significantly over the past 27 years and now has chapters that assist surviving family members of homicide victims in most states. The mission of POMC is to make a difference through on-going emotional support, education, prevention, advocacy and awareness. The New Hampshire Chapter Of Parents Of Murdered Children was started in February of 1988 with survivors Blanche Higley, Geraldine Jeffryes, Wendy Walker, and Phyllis Woodside.

Over 16,000 people were murdered in America last year. The National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims seeks to generate greater awareness among Americans about the devastating impact of murder on individuals, families, communities and our nation as a whole. For surviving family members and friends, the murder of a loved one is a life-changing experience that affects them emotionally, physically, financially and spiritually. For our entire nation, the impact of homicide affects our sense of safety, fairness and justice, and results in profound social and economic losses that have a domino effect, which can touch each and every one of us.

Murder is not something that happens "to someone else." It is our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and neighbors and friends who are senselessly killed. In New Hampshire, Parents Of Murdered Children & Other Survivors of Homicide Victims is dedicated to providing support and services to families and friends of homicide victims, and to encouraging everyone who knows somebody who has been murdered to step forward and offer a hand of support, and respect and

recognition to the survivors of murder victims.

The National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims provides communities with the opportunity to talk about the impact that homicide has on us all, and to pay tribute to those who have been killed and those who are left behind to suffer the trauma of a murder.

When somebody is murdered, the devastation endured by family and friends doesn't end in a few weeks or a month or a year. It dramatically changes life, and the sorrow and trauma may not end.

If you know someone whose loved one has been murdered, know also that you can make a difference in his or her life. You can recognize the long-term impact of this crime on their lives. You can be there with simply a kind word or an offer of support. You can support them through the criminal justice process. You can ask them how you can help make a difference to educate your community about the impact of homicide, to prevent further murders, and to promote justice system reforms that reflect and respect the rights and needs of survivors of homicide victims.

For additional information about local efforts sponsored by the New Hampshire Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children, please call (603) 626-5119, (603) 223-0064 or visit their web site: <a href="https://www.pomc.com/newhampshire/index.htm">www.pomc.com/newhampshire/index.htm</a>. For additional information about the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, please call



(CONVERSATIONS from p. 2)

In December 2002, NHDOC hosted a 4-day training for prospective VOD facilitators. They are people working at DOC, working in community-based agencies, and community volunteers who wanted to get involved. Led by Dr. Mark Umbreit of Minnesota and Karen Ho of Ohio, the training was an intense exposure to several videoed VOD cases and opportunities to discuss and explore the elements of safe dialogue. We also heard from several survivors of violent crime and offenders in New Hampshire.

When a victim contacts NHDOC, the established Protocols guide the process forward. After consulting with others, the Victim Services Coordinator assigns two trained facilitators to who then co-facilitate the VOD process. Normally one facilitator is DOC-based, and one facilitator is community based. facilitators hold an initial meeting with the victim. They then meet separately with the offender if he or she wants to explore a dialogue. The offender cannot be forced into the dialogue. It is explained to both parties that the content of their discussion cannot be used for or against the offender in any parole or court proceedings. The reason for their conversation is that the victim or survivor expressed a need to talk with the offender. Most participating offenders also experience the dialogue as personally helpful.

The co-facilitators hold a series of separate preparatory meetings with both the victim and the offender. The purpose of the meetings are to assist the victim and the offender in clarifying what they hope to get out of the time they may spend meeting face-to-face in a safe setting. The co-facilitators communicate the general sense of what each party is seeking in the dialogue as they meet alternatively with the victim and the offender. This allows each participant time to think about what it is the other person wants addressed. Good preparation helps everyone prevent surprises during an actual dialogue.

Each participant is able to select a support person to be with him or her during the preparation and at the dialogue. This person plays an observer's role during the dialogue, and is someone they can trust to emotionally be there for them. The identity of each support person, if they choose to have one, is shared with both the victim and the offender.

(Continued on page 5)

"Empathy is the ability to be aware of the needs of others and to value those needs. When empathy is high ..., abuse is low — the two are essentially incompatible."

> Stephen J. Bavolek, President of Family Development Resources, Inc.

## LISTEN & LEARN: WHY?

by Dan Meeks

"The only way you're going to get a bicycle is to work for it," my dad said in his usual matter-of-fact voice.

It was sometime around 1962. I was determined to have a bicycle. My dad made me an offer. If I started working as a paperboy, delivering newspapers, he would let me buy my own bike. I agreed. The next week I started my paper route. At the end of the sixth week, I had paid for my first bicycle. I was very proud of my accomplishment and my dad was very proud of me too. A few days later, I had a dentist appointment. I rode my new bike down to the dentist office. The dentist checked me out, congratulated me on my new bike, and I raced out the door looking forward to the ride home.

"As a member of the criminal was stunned. justice system working for the wasn't happening. I Department NH Corrections, I was there to had seen my bike. No "Listen & Learn" from a panel of crime victims and

My bike was gone! I This of asked people if they one had seen anything. I raced up and down the street looking for my new bike, hoping

that some mistake had been made. I finally accepted the truth. My new bike had been stolen.

This is my first memory of feeling like a victim. A great injustice had been done to me. I felt anger, rage, revenge, unforgiveness, resentment, and hatred. I asked myself, "Why?" Why did he steal my bike? I was a crime victim.

On June 28, 2004, more than two dozen corrections staff. community Academy providers and others attended a halfday "Discussion with Crime Victims and Survivors in New Hampshire." As a member of the criminal justice system working for the NH Department of Corrections, I was there to "Listen & Learn" from a panel of crime victims and



(Continued on page 7)



## NHDOC 's Dover District Office

NHDOC Senior Probation-Parole Officer Christine McKenna, at Dover District Office, has implemented a Women's Group for female offenders. The program includes a twelve-week support and education curriculum covering areas in substance abuse, victimization, employment/educational opportunities, parenting, money management, life skills, etc. All females in The Academy automatically attend, and the group is also open to any probationer or parolee who could benefit from this resource. The group meets



Each NHDOC facility and district office has staff who serve as Victim Services Liaisons. Pictured here are Probation-Parole Officers Chuck Wolfert, Dave Berube, Christine McKenna, Tina Guerin, Michele Marquis & Tony Dodge, and Lakes Region Facility Program Coordinator Bernadette Brauns.

(CONVERSATIONS from page 4)

There is no set number of preparatory meetings. The co-facilitators, in consultation with others, use their judgment as to when the victim and offender are ready to talk directly with one another. Generally there are three to six meetings with both the victim and the offender that stretch out over several months.

When the co-facilitators feel the victim and offender are ready to talk, the <u>Protocols</u> require a final approval process which assures "check and balance" in permitting a safe face-to-face meeting. If the offender is still incarcerated, the victim is given the opportunity to come into the prison prior to the dialogue day and view the area in which the dialogue will occur. Consistent with security considerations, the victim chooses where the table and chairs are placed, and where each person will sit. The goal is to help the victim/ survivor be empowered and feel as comfortable as possible.

If the offender is on parole or probation, an appropriate place in the community has been selected and the same process applies. Typically, after the victim and support persons are settled in the dialogue room, the co-facilitators meet the offender and bring him or her into the room. One of the co-facilitators reemphasizes the ground rules of the meeting; at that point the co-facilitators' role shifts to one of providing support and structure, and the victim and the offender enter into their dialogue.

Their conversation lasts as long as needed, within reason. When these two people feel they have said all they need to say, the offender (and support person) is escorted by one of the cofacilitators out of the room for a time of processing. The victim/survivor (and support person) is also allowed this time.

After the dialogue day, the co-facilitators initiate one or two follow-up contacts with the victim and the offender over the next few weeks, for the purpose of helping the parties close the dialogue process and move on to whatever the next step may be for them in dealing with the personal aftermath of crime. If the

(Continued on 6)

(CONVERSATIONS from page 5)

victim/survivor has further concerns, he or she has contact with the Victim Services Office or other appropriate agency.

As a co-facilitator, I have found the VOD process a powerful one. Even when the preparation stage does not culminate in an actual dialogue, which can happen, the participants still find the exploratory work helpful.

Crime is prosecuted as a crime against the state. Our criminal justice system often leaves victims and survivors feeling depersonalized. To them, crime is a personal act against people, and it's only as they are given a voice that many personal ramifications of crime can be addressed. Victim-Offender Dialogue is one way victims can speak and be an active part of their own recovery process.

Chaplain Dan Smith is with the New Hampshire Department of Corrections, NH State Prison for Men in Concord. He is one of several people in New Hampshire specially trained to facilitate victim-offender dialogue in cases of severe violence. He may be reached at (603) 271-6170.



October is a time to celebrate and contribute to the work being accomplished to end domestic and family violence across New Hampshire and the nation. We observe "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" to acknowledge and support survivors of domestic and family violence, remember victims who have lost their lives, and create community awareness about this widespread social problem.

<u>Please consider contacting one of the following agencies in your community</u> for information about activities honoring 2004 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH....

RESPONSE to Sexual & Domestic Violence Berlin Office: 752-5679 \*\* Colebrook Office: 237-8746 \*\* Lancaster Office: 788-2562

Women's Supportive Services Claremont Office: 543-0155 \*\* Newport Office: 863-4053

Rape & Domestic Violence Crisis Center Concord Office: 225-7376

Starting Point: Services for Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence Conway Office: 356-7993 \*\* Ossipee Office: 539-5506

Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) Durham (University of New Hampshire): 862-3494

Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention Keene Office: 352-3844 \*\* Jaffrey Office: 532-6800

New Beginnings, A Women's Crisis Center Laconia Office: 528-6511

Women's Information Services (WISE) Lebanon Office: 448-5922

The Support Center At Burch House Littleton Office: 444-0624 \*\* Woodsville Office: 747-2441

YWCA Crisis Service Manchester Office: 625-5785 \*\* Derry Office: 432-2687

Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Nashua Office: 889-0858 \*\* Milford Office: 672-9833

Voices Against Violence Plymouth Office: 536-3423

A Safe Place Portsmouth Office: 436-7924 \*\* Rochester Office: 330-0214 \*\* Salem Office: 890-6392

Sexual Assault Support Services Portsmouth Office: 436-4107 \*\* Rochester Office: 332-0775

NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence Statewide Office: 224-8893

(LISTEN AND LEARN from page 4)

survivors.

I have been "counseling" inmates since 1989. I am no expert, but consider myself a student of trying to understand the complexities of human personality. "Why do people do things?" A simple enough question in itself... "Why?"

I saw a lot of "Why's?" As I looked around the room at the many faces of those who attended this discussion, I saw "Why's?" on their faces. If a mirror had been handy, I would have seen the same expression on my face. I thought, "What are we all looking for in the question, "Why?"

One presenter explained the hurt and guilt she felt when she found out her second husband had sexually abused her young son for ten years. A son who had already experienced emotional problems before his own stepfather violated him. Over the years her son was being sexually assaulted, she had no clue about the heinous acts by her husband. All she knew was that her son was getting worse. She desperately searched for answers every day. I tried to imagine how she felt when she discovered the crime that was occurring right under her very nose. "Why?"

A crime survivor told us about her first son who was murdered in Concord for \$55. "Why?" Another person, a victim of sexual assault, talked about being abused as a child and finding the strength to surpass that trauma as an adult.

A caring father explained how his son had been murdered. The son had been strangled twice before he died. Twice... and then his son died. The father would have sacrificed his own life to save his son's. As a dad myself, I could only shutter as I thought of my own sons and what I would have wanted to do to the people who dared do such a thing to one of them.

One person's father was killed because he answered the door when the doorbell rang. He was the victim of a "random" act. The father had never met his murderer. "Why?" Where is the sense to any of this?

A mother angrily related the story of how her son had been murdered. He was an inmate who had been killed by another inmate while incarcerated at NH State Prison. This son, her only son, was the only child to survive after she had multiple miscarriages. He was now dead. Yes, he committed a crime and landed in prison. Yes, he should have made better decisions; but he didn't deserve to die at the hands of a murderer in prison. "How could this happen?" She was very angry. I could feel her anger from twenty feet away. She would never see her son again. Where is the answer to her, "Why?"

## 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT STALKING

## 1. Stalking is a crime.

Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that places a reasonable person in fear for her or his safety. It is against the law. Stalking across state lines or in federal territories is illegal under federal law.

## 2. Many people are stalked.

1 in 12 twelve women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetimes. 1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States.

## 3. Stalking can be very dangerous.

76 percent of women killed by their intimate partners were stalked by these partners before they were killed. All stalkers should be considered unpredictable and very dangerous.

## 4. Stalking is harmful and intrusive.

Stalking victims often lose time from work or never return to work, and some even relocate to regain a sense of safety. Many suffer from anxiety, insomnia, and severe depression as a result of being stalked.

## 5. Anyone can be stalked— not just celebrities.

The vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary people. Furthermore, most stalkers are not strangers, but are known by their victim.

# 6. Stalking can occur during a relationship, after a relationship, or in the absence of a relationship.

Stalking often begins during a relationship. Stalkers may keep the victim under surveillance or threaten her or him. Others begin stalking after the victim has ended the relationship, and the stalker feels desperate to maintain or regain control. Still others

#### (LISTEN & LEARN from page 7)

Another survivor, a mother who ached for her two sons, explained how a man had murdered her oldest son with a knife; and one year later, almost to the day, a drug dealer killed a younger son. She had no sons left in her life, no grandchildren to spoil, and no future memories to make with her two dead sons. "Why?"

I sat in silence as each panelist spoke. The air was alive with pain, sorrow and... anger

Their real life stories were tragedies enough all by themselves. Yet, these New Hampshire crime victims and survivors wanted us to know something else. They wanted us to know all the difficulties they had to go through on the other side of their tragedy. Some things they shared with us were informational; some things they shared were advice:

- > "Don't say, 'I know how you feel,' or say, 'They are in a better place.' "
- "I went to a psychologist and all he could recommend was that I read a book. That didn't help."
  - "Programs should not be 'shamed based', we have a shamed based society."
- "People separate themselves from 'uncomfortable' people. We experience a 'Social unacceptance... a Code of Silence.'"
- "I think of myself as a 'surpasser' not a survivor or a victim."
- > "You have to accept the system for what it is."
- > "Accountability is number one."
- > "Prosecutors 'plea-bargained' two years of my daughter's life."
- > "Victims become 'evidence' instead of a 'person.'"
- "You should never use 'forgiveness' and 'closure' words."
- > "A victim can only reach empathy and forgiveness in their own way and their own time."
- "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is often wrongly diagnosed as ADHD."
- "Substance abuse is a coping mechanism for domestic violence victims."
- > "Predators are substance users."
- > "Beware of 'victim-blaming' comments."
- > "My faith is shaken in the judicial system."
- > "My life feels like a 'scattered hole puncher."

After listening to these people express their feelings and thoughts, I still don't understand the "Why's" of people hurting other people. Compared to the events that have happened to these crime victims and survivors, the theft of my first bicycle was insignificant.

In my own life, I have hurt people and people have hurt me. In my counseling experience, I know people hurt

(STALKING from page 7)

become fixated on a victim without ever having had any relationship with the person. All forms of stalking are unpredictable, and all should be considered dangerous.

## 7. Technology can be used to stalk.

Although newly-developed technology enhances our lives, it can also empower criminals. Cell phones, computers, and surveillance equipment are just some of the technologies stalkers now use.

## 8. An effective response to stalking includes the entire community.

Police, prosecutors, advocates, educators, reporters, neighbors ... everyone can and should play a part in stopping stalking. Working together, we can make victims safer.

#### 9. You can make a difference.

Visit www.ncvc.org/src to learn more about stalking and how to fight it.

## 10. Help is available.

If you or someone you know is being stalked, call 1-800-FYI-CALL for assistance.

Source: National Center for Victims of Crime, Stalking Resource Center

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, 14 local crisis and support centers are a great resource providing a number of confidential services. 24-hour support and assistance is available at 1-866-644-3574.

"Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime" www.state.nh.us/doc

(LISTEN & LEARN from page 8)

## A FEW NEW LAWS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

(ADOPTED BY THE NH GENERAL COURT IN 2004)

## House Bill 1257 (CHAPTER 109) AN ACT relative to penalties for driving under the influence with a minor in vehicle.

This law classifies driving a vehicle or off highway recreational vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled drug and carrying a passenger under the age of 16 as aggravated driving while intoxicated. It also makes boating while intoxicated while transporting a person under the age of 16 subject to the same penalties as aggravated driving while intoxicated and clarifies certain provisions of the boating while intoxicated law. Effective: January 1, 2005.

## Senate Bill 521 (CHAPTER 233) AN ACT increasing the penalty for identity fraud.

This law increases the penalty for identity fraud to a Class A felony in all cases. Effective: June 11, 2004.

# House Bill 1361 (CHAPTER 87) AN ACT relative to sentences for certain offenses committed on or near to a public college or university campus.

This law provides additional sentencing options to courts for conduct comprising the offense of riot within a municipality in which a student housing facility owned by a public institution of higher education is located, or any adjacent municipality. Effective: May 7, 2004.

# House Bill 403 (CHAPTER 69) AN ACT requiring persons who are acquitted of certain sexual assaults by reason of insanity to register as sexual offenders.

This law amends RSA 651-B:1, III, to require a person acquitted of certain sexual assaults by reason of insanity to register as a sexual offender. Effective: January 1, 2005.

themselves and each other. I don't have the answers to the, "why's". I do know this, however. Communication, understanding, and caring are qualities we all need to share. Things we need to do. Sometimes, all there is, is, "Will somebody please listen? Does anybody care?" We have a long way to go. The Victim Impact Program is a big step in the right direction.

Dan Meeks is a corrections counselor/case manager with the NH Department of Corrections, Shea Farm House. He may be reached at (603) 271-0426 or jmeeks@nhdoc.state.nh.us.

From 1990 through 2003, a total of 280 homicides occurred in New Hampshire; 48% were domestic violence-related. In those 14 years, the number of homicides has ranged from a low of 13 (2002) to a high of 35 (1991). The percentage which (is) domestic violence-related has ranged from a low of 21% in 1997 to a high of 73% in 2000. The year 2001 saw a significant decrease in domestic violence-related homicides, dropping again to 35%. However, the number of total homicides increased in 2001 to 20, from 15 in 2000. Fortunately the number dropped again to 13 in 2002, the lowest total in 14 years.

Source: NH Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, Fourth Annual Report, 2004.

## Receive *Crossroads* by E-Mail!

The next edition of *Crossroads* will be published during Spring 2005.

\*\* An electronic version is available by e-mail \*\*

To request *Crossroads* by e-mail or to submit comments please contact the Victim Services Office at <a href="mailto:victimservices@nhdoc.state.nh.us">victimservices@nhdoc.state.nh.us</a>

(603) 271-7351



## Victim Services

New Hampshire Department of Corrections Victim Services Office P.O. Box 1806 Concord, NH 03302-1806

Phone: 603-271-1937 or 603-271-7351 or 1-800-479-0688 Ext. 7351 (in-state only)

Fax: 603-271-5639

Email: victimservices@nhdoc.state.nh.us

Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime
AUTUMN 2004

## WE ARE ON THE WEB!

www.nh.gov/doc

### **DID YOU KNOW...?**



Approximately half of all homicides in NH are domestic violence related. Most occur between the hours of 6:00 PM and midnight. SOURCE: NH Governor's Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence, 2004.

In the U.S., from 1982 to 2001, total annual justice expenditures (federal, state, & local) more than quadrupled from approx. \$36 billion to over \$167 billion, a 366% increase. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004.

The FBI reports that there were 16,110 victims of homicide in 2002, reflecting a 0.8 % increase over 2001. There was a 4.8 % decline in the Northeast. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. 2003.

65% of New Hampshire victims of domestic and sexual violence believe that their offenders were using alcohol during their most recent violent episode. *SOURCE: New Futures, 1998.* 

Approximately 1,000 current inmates in New Hampshire prisons have crime victims/survivors registered to receive notification of inmate custody changes. *SOURCE: NH Department of Corrections, 2004.* 

